

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12 - 22 and add new claims 23 -28 as follows.

1. - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A promotion system comprising:

a plurality of commodity selling terminals that are disposed outdoors or indoors and sell commodities;

a user terminal being accessible to Internet; and

a center unit provided on the Internet, wherein

the commodity selling terminals comprise:

point information generating means for generating, when a sale of a commodity is made, point information including system information that manages promotion and commodity sale information for the commodity that has been sold, and point information that includes a number of points that has been acquired by a user by the sale of the commodity;

encrypting means for encrypting the point information generated by the point information generating means; and

point information issuing means for issuing the point information that has been encrypted by the encrypting means to a purchaser of the commodity,

the user terminal comprises:

input means for inputting the point information that has been issued from the point information issuing means; and

point information transmitting means for transmitting the point information that has been inputted by the input means to the center unit together with user identification information by accessing the Internet,

the center unit comprises:

a user management database that manages the user identification information;

a commodity sale information management database that manages that commodity sale information corresponding to the system information;

a point management database that manages the number of points corresponding to the user identification information;

point information receiving means for receiving the point information that has been transmitted by the point information transmitting means;

decrypting means for decrypting the point information that has been received by the point information receiving means: and

updating means for updating the number of points that corresponds to corresponding user identification information in the user management database by extracting the number of points from the point information that has been decrypted by the decrypting means with reference to the user management database, and updating the commodity sale information that corresponds to corresponding system information in the commodity sale information management database by extracting the system information from the point information.

24. (New) The promotion system according to claim 23, wherein the commodity selling terminals are automatic vending machines, the user terminal is a portable telephone, and the system information is generated corresponding to distributor information for the commodity that has been sold.

25. (New) The promotion system according to claim 23, wherein the commodity sale information includes at least one of a commodity code unique to the commodity, date information when the commodity is sold, price information of the commodity and an area code related to a place where a machine having sold the commodity is installed.

26. (New) A promotion system comprising:

a plurality of commodity selling terminals that are disposed outdoors or indoors and sell commodities;

a user terminal being accessible to Internet;

a system terminal disposed on the Internet corresponding to a distributor of the commodity; and

a center unit provided on the Internet, wherein

the commodity selling terminals comprise:

point information generating means for generating, when a sale of a commodity is made, point information including commodity sale information for the commodity that has been sold, and point information that includes a number of points that has been acquired by a user by the sale of the commodity;

encrypting means for encrypting the point information generated by the point information generating means; and

point information issuing means for issuing the point information that has been encrypted by the encrypting means to a purchaser of the commodity, the user terminal comprising:

Input means for inputting the point information that has been issued from the point information issuing means; and

first point information transmitting means for transmitting the point information that has been inputted by the means to the system terminal together with user identification information by accessing the internet,

the system terminal comprises:

first point information receiving means for receiving the point information that has been transmitted from the first point information transmitting means;

system information adding means for adding a system information for managing the promotion of the commodity to the point information that has been received by the first point information receiving means; and

second point information transmitting means for transmitting the point information to which the system information is added by the system information adding means to the center unit, and

the center unit comprising

a user management database that manages the user identification information;

a commodity sale information management database that manages the commodity sale information corresponding to the system information;

a point management database that manages a number of points corresponding to the user identification information;

second point information receiving means for receiving the point information that has been transmitted by the second point information transmitting means;

decrypting means for decrypting the point information that has been received by the second point information receiving means; and

updating means for updating the number of points that corresponds to corresponding user identification information in the user management database by extracting the number of points from the point information that has been decrypted by decrypting means with reference to the user management database, and updating the commodity sale information that corresponds to corresponding system information in the commodity sale information management database by extracting the system information added to the point information.

27. (New) The promotion system according to claim 26, wherein the commodity selling terminals are automatic vending machines,
the user terminal is a portable telephone, and
the system information is generated corresponding to distributor information for the commodity that has been sold.

28. (New) The promotion system according to claim 26, wherein the commodity sale information includes at least one of a commodity code unique to the commodity, date information when the commodity is sold, price information of the commodity and an area code related to a place where a machine having sold the commodity is installed.